

REMARKS

Claims 6-17 are pending in the application. Of these, claims 6 and 14 are independent.

In the Office Action dated February 22, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 6, 11-14, 16, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by newly cited US 4,172,923 (Kawase et al.). According to the Examiner, Kawase discloses producing an aluminum composite material by cutting at least one cladding layer of a specified thickness suitable for use as a cladding sheet layer from a first ingot made from a first aluminum material, then placing the cladding layer on a side of a second ingot made from a second aluminum material, and then rolling the cladding layer and the second ingot, the rolling comprising several roll passes, thereby producing the aluminum composite material. The Examiner further asserted that the cladding sheet layer has a thickness of 5 mm after cutting, and at least one surface of the cladding layer and the second ingot are treated prior to rolling by being degreased with trichloroethylene, citing col. 5, line 37, to col. 6, line 40, of Kawase. The Examiner further asserted that Kawase discloses producing at least one aluminum cladding layer from a first aluminum material, the cladding layer to be used in an aluminum material, the composite material being produced at least partially by (1) placing the cladding layer on a side of the second ingot made from a second aluminum material, and (2) rolling the cladding layer and the second ingot, the rolling comprising several roll passes thereby producing the composite material again citing col. 5, line 37, to col. 6, line 40 of Kawase. The aluminum cladding layer is

cut from the first ingot at a specified thickness suitable for use as a cladding sheet for composite material.

Additionally, the Examiner rejected claims 7-10, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawase in view of US 2,730,792 (Ronan). According to the Examiner, Ronan discloses a metal saw used for cutting metal and consequently cutting through a metal workpiece in order to prevent damage to the workpiece and to provide a straight cut through the workpiece, the Examiner referring to cols. 1-3 and Figs. 1-8 of Ronan. Therefore, the Examiner concluded that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to cut the cladding layer of Kawase from the first ingot by using a saw, in light of the teachings of Ronan, in order to effectively prevent damage to the ingot, and to provide an accurate cut through the ingot.

However, for the reasons set forth below, it is believed that applicant's claimed invention is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the prior art of record. In particular, Kawase merely discloses the production of a composite material by putting a cladding material of sheet-like form onto a core material, hot-rolling, bonding and cold rolling the clad core material. See col. 4, lines 40-45 of Kawase.

Furthermore, Kawase expressly discloses what is meant by "sheet-like form." Kawase clearly describes that the cladding material is made from an ingot which is heated and hot-rolled to a thickness of 5 mm. After hot rolling, the sheet to be used as cladding material is cut out from the hot rolled material. See col. 5, line 50 to col. 6, line 30. All examples shown in Kawase comprise forming the cladding material from a hot-

rolled sheet. In contrast, claims 6 and 14 specify that the cladding layer of specified thickness is cut from a first ingot, not a hot-rolled sheet. Therefore, Kawase does not anticipate claims 6 and 14.

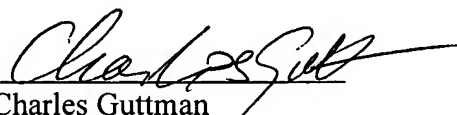
Furthermore, Ronan merely discloses a metal saw for cutting metal and other material. There is no disclosure or suggestion in either Ronan or Kawase for cutting a cladding layer using the saw discloses by Ronan. Moreover, even if one were to combine the teachings of Kawase and Ronan, there is no disclosure or suggestion for cutting the cladding layer from an ingot using the saw of Ronan.

Accordingly, neither claims 6 nor 14, nor any of the dependent claims are anticipated or suggested by the prior art of record. Withdrawal of the grounds for rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance and a favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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